IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant	:	Jiming Sun	
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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APPEAL BRIEF

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits, the following Appeal Brief pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 for consideration by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Applicant also submits herewith our check number 830 in the amount of $500 to cover the cost of filing the opening brief as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(1)(b). Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to our deposit Account No.02-2666. A duplicate copy of the Fee Transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

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I.   REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the assignee, Intel Corporation.

II.   RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences known to the appellants, the appellants' legal representative, or assignee, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III.   STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 of the present application are pending and remain rejected. The Applicants hereby appeals the rejection of claims 1-30.

IV.   STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

On January 9, 2006, the Applicants filed a response to Office Action dated October 7, 2005. On March 27, 2006, the Examiner issued a Final Office Action. The Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal and a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review from the Final Office Action on June 26, 2006. The Pre-Appeal Brief Review Panel issued a decision on September 18, 2006, stating that the application remains under appeal.

V.   SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

1. Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-23, and 25-30:

One embodiment of the present invention is a method and apparatus for implementing ink data communication between multiple parties using computing and/or communication devices on a network[1].

An input device 410 produces raw ink input data typically including an x coordinate, a y coordinate, and time information from the ink data capture device. Ink data input device 410 operates with a hardware interface software layer or driver 420 to format the raw ink data into a form suitable for processing at higher functional levels[2].

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[1] Specification, page 8, lines 6-7.
[2] Specification, page 11, lines 9-13; Figure 4, elements 410 and 420.

An ink management layer 430 applies conventional handwriting recognition techniques to convert the ink data to a text form[3]. Any of these processing functions, such as compaction, compression, encryption, and handwriting recognition may be selectively enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface[4]. The ink management layer 430 also transforms the raw ink data into a network transportable format. At the completion of its processing of the input raw ink data, the ink management layer 430 produces processed ink data, which is transferred to network interface layer 440[5].

An input device 510 is a handwriting-input device such as a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, or a mouse[6]. The input device 510 collects ink data or information having new format and transmits it to an encoding unit 515[7]. The encoding unit 515 takes this input ink data 511 (i.e., message data) and encodes or converts it into a string of data 512 that has an existing format (i.e., ASCII format)[8].

A packetizer device 520 takes the data string 512 (i.e., ASCII string) and adds a header to form a new data string 513[9]. The header is used to identify the data format (i.e., to identify an ink message)[10].

A decoding unit 525 decodes the data string 513 and outputs the decoded data to the output device 530[11]. The decoding unit 525 may include an examiner or detector to examine the headers of the packets in the data string 513. If the examiner determines that the packet contain ink data, the decoder unit extracts the embedded data from the data string 513 and decodes or converts it back into its original form, the ink format data 511 (i.e., converts ASCII data into ink format) and displays it on output device 530[12].

2. Dependent claims 4, 14, and 24:

The network interface layer 440 handles the conversion of the processed ink data to a form compatible with the local network communication protocol[13]. Once a network transportable form of the processed ink data is produced by network interface layer 440, the network transportable ink data is transferred to a messaging layer 450 such as instant

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[3] Specification, page 12, lines 7-9; Figure 4, element 430.
[4] Specification, page 12, lines 9-11
[5] Specification, page 12, lines 11-14; Figure 4, elements 4340-440.
[6] Specification, page 14, lines 21-22; Figure 5, element 510.
[7] Specification, page 14, lines 22-23; Figure 5, elements 510 and 515.
[8] Specification, page 14, lines 23-25; page 15, lines 26-27; Figure 6, block 620.
[9] Specification, page 15, lines 6-7; Figure 5, element 520; page 15, lines 27-28; Figure 6, block 630.
[10] Specification, page 15, lines 7-8; Figure 7, element 513; page 15, line 28; page 16, line 1.
[11] Specification, page 15, lines 15-16; Figure 5, element 525.
[12] Specification, page 15, lines 18-22; page 16, lines 7-8; Figure 6, block 680.
[13] Specification, page 12, lines 15-16; Figure 4, element 440.

messaging (IM) interface layer 450. Interface layer 450 provides the conventional system infrastructure for transferring instant messages between two users on a computer network[14]. The present invention augments the conventional instant messaging interface layer 450 to include the transport of the processed ink data using the conventional instant messaging infrastructure. In this manner, a user at one network location with an input device 410 that produces ink data may transport the ink data through the instant messaging infrastructure 450 to a remote network user[15].

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-3, and 25-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0081027A1 by Chatterjee et al. ("Chatterjee 1"), U.S. Patent No. 6,549,675 issued to Chatterjee ("Chatterjee 2") and U.S. Patent No. 6,847,365 issued to issued to Miller et al. ("Miller") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,352 issued to Ludwig et al. ("Ludwig").

2. Claims 4, 14, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chatterjee, Ludwig, and Miller as applied to claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-23, and 25-30 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,749 issued to Herbert, Jr. ("Herbert").

VII. ARGUMENTS

A. Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-3, and 25-30 Are Not Obvious over Chatterjee 1, Chatterjee 2, and Miller in view of Ludwig.

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-3, and 25-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0081027A1 by Chatterjee et al. ("Chatterjee 1"), U.S. Patent No. 6,549,675 issued to Chatterjee ("Chatterjee 2") and U.S. Patent No. 6,847,365 issued to issued to Miller et al. ("Miller") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,352 issued to Ludwig et al. ("Ludwig"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and

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[14] Specification, page 12, lines 23-27. Figure 4, element 450.
[15] Specification, page 12, lines 27-28; page 13, lines 1-3.

contend that the Examiner has not met the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *MPEP §2143, p. 2100-129 (8th Ed., Rev. 2, May 2004)*. Applicants respectfully contend that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine their teachings, and thus no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established.

Chatterjee 1 discloses a method for electronic transport of digital ink. An image is formatted into a digital ink structure format (Chatterjee 1, paragraph [0018]. Then, the message is encoded into printable characters, such as ASCII characters (Chatterjee 1, paragraph [0018]). In the decoding process, each character is mapped to its 6 bit counterpart and the mapped result is concatenated to the partially decoded compressed data stream (Chatterjee 1, paragraph [0023]).

Chatterjee 2 discloses compression of digital ink.   As a user writes on a touch-screen display, the X-axis and Y-axis coordinate values of points are provided (Chatterjee 2, col. 5, lines 6-10). A digital processor 26 separates these values into two arrays (Chatterjee 2, col. 5, lines 6-10). A difference analyzer 28 computes the offset between consecutive points (Chatterjee 2, col. 5, lines 54-55). A Huffman encoder uses histogram of the occurrences of the second order differences for the X-axis and Y-axis data (Chatterjee 2, col. 6, lines 32-37). A bitstream processor 32 encapsulates the compressed bitstream into a data frame (Chatterjee 2, col. 5, lines 45-48). Chatterhee 2 claims a device that includes a bitstream processor that encapsulates the encoded bitstream into a data packet for transmitting to a remote computer (Chatterjee 2, col. 16, lines 14-16).

Ludwig discloses communication device and method.   The implementation of a protocol that embeds packets is made sensitive to the type of data being embedded (Ludwig, Abstract). An IP datagram is passed to the link layer, where a header associated with the link layer protocol (LLP), e.g. the Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP), is added. The resulting packet is often called a frame (Ludwig, col. 2, lines 24-27).   PPP is used to transport multiple protocols, such as IP, LCP (link control protocol), PAP (password

authentication protocol) etc. simultaneously over a serial link. A PPP protocol identifier identifies which protocol data unit (PDU) or protocol packet is contained in a particular PPP packet. IP, which in turn is carried by PPP, can carry packets of multiple protocols, namely TCP, UDP and ICMP (Internet Control Message Protocol), which are also distinguished by a protocol identifier in the IP header (Ludwig, col. 6, lines 45-65).

Miller discloses systems and methods for efficient processing of multimedia data. A media processor 32 includes media processing elements MPEs 66, 68, 70 and 72 (Miller, col. 6, lines 31-34). The MPEs 66 – 72 are configured to decode or decompress audio and video portions of a MPEG-2 data stream, or to process sub-picture, menu, navigation and other video and audio control functions for a TV or a computer monitor. (Miller, col. 7, lines 56-62; col. 8, lines 14-17).

Chatterjee 1, Chatterjee 2, Ludwig, and Miller, taken alone or in any combination, do not disclose, either expressly or inherently, at least one of (1) a management layer to process data using a processing function; (2) the processing function is enabled or disabled by a configuration user interface; (3) a packetizer to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header identifying the first format as recited in claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21, and 28; and (4) a detector to detect the second format as recited in claims 2, 12, and 22.

Chatterjee 1 merely discloses formatting, compressing, and encoding. No packetizing is performed. Furthermore, the compressed digital ink stream includes a header and a compressed digital ink message (Chatterjee 1, paragraph [0028]). The header, therefore, is produced during the compressing, before the encoding. In contrast, the claimed invention provides the header during packetizing after the encoding. In addition, Chatterjee 1 does not disclose that the header identifying the first format. Regarding claims 2, 12, and 22, Chatterjee 1 does not disclose detecting the second format. Chatterjee 1 merely discloses checking for a place keeper/end of message character (Chatterjee 1, paragraph [0023]), not detecting a second format.

Chatterjee 2 merely discloses encoding the second order differences of the X-axis and Y-axis data and encapsulating the encoded bitstream into a data packet. There are no two different formats.

The Examiner concedes that Chatterjee 1 and Chatterjee 2 do not disclose a management layer to process data in a first format using a processing function that is

enabled or disabled by a configuration user interface (Final Office Action, page 4, paragraph number 2). However, the Examiner does not identify the management layer and/or the configuration user interface in any one of Ludwig and Miller. Therefore, the combination of Chatterjee 1, Chatterjee 2, Ludwig, and Miller is improper.

The Examiner further states that Ludwig teaches a system for processing data of more than one format (Final Office Action, page 4, bottom two lines). Applicants respectfully disagree. Ludwig merely discloses the PPP is used to transport multiple protocols. These protocols are used for packet transmission, not used for encoding data into a string of data.

The Examiner further states that by selectively configuring one of the MPEs, Miller was able to use the same infrastructure to support multiple formats (Final Office Action, page 5, lines 5-7). Applicants respectfully disagree. The MPEs are configured to decode or decompress MPEG-2 stream or process subpicture for display on TV or a computer monitor, not to encode data into a string of data. Decoding and decompression are not encoding. In fact, they are the opposite of encoding.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that for the transportation of an e-mail, the information has to be packetized having a header and a body (Final Office Action, page 2, paragraph number 1). The Examiner further contends that to convert from a digital ink to a second format and vice versa, the element of encoding and decoding has to be present (Final Office Action, page 2, paragraph number 1). Applicants respectfully disagree for the following reasons.

Since the Examiner failed to show that the prior art reference explicitly discloses the packetizer, the encoder, or decoder, the Examiner apparently indicates that the rejections are based on inherency. However, the fact that a certain result or characteristic may occur or be present in the prior art is not sufficient to establish the inherency of that result or characteristic. In re Rijckaert, 9 F.3d 1531, 1534, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 193). "To establish inherency, the extrinsic evidence 'must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in the reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill. Inherency, however, may not be established by probabilities or possibilities. The mere fact that a certain thing may result from a given set of circumstances is not sufficient.'" In re Robertson, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950-51 (Fed. Cir. 1999). "In relying upon the theory of

inherency, the examiner must provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic <u>necessarily</u> flows from the teachings of the applied prior art." <u>Ex parte Levy</u>, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) (emphasis in original). Here, neither <u>Chatterjee 1</u> nor <u>Chatterjee 2</u> discloses a packetizer to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header. Even if a header is implicitly disclosed, neither <u>Chatterjee 1</u> nor <u>Chatterjee 2</u> discloses implicitly or explicitly that the header identifies the first format. The Examiner failed to provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the packetizer or the header identifying the first format <u>necessarily</u> flows from the teachings of <u>Chatterjee 1</u> or <u>Chatterjee 2.</u>

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-3, and 25-30 and distinguishable from the cited prior art references.

B. Claims 4, 14, and 24 Are Not Obvious over Chatterjee, Ludwig, Miller and Herbert.

Claims 4, 14, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Chatterjee</u>, <u>Ludwig</u>, and <u>Miller</u> as applied to claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-23, and 25-30 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,749 issued to Herbert, Jr. ("<u>Herbert</u>"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and contend that the Examiner has not met the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness.

<u>Chatterjee 1</u> discloses a method for electronic transport of digital ink as discussed above. <u>Chatterjee 2</u> discloses compression of digital ink as discussed above. <u>Ludwig</u> discloses a communication device and method as discussed above. <u>Miller</u> discloses a systems and methods for efficient processing of multimedia data.

<u>Herbert</u> discloses a system device, computer program product, and method for representing a plurality of electronic ink data points. Pen-enabled computing systems capture handwriting input. The handwritten information may be bodily incorporated into messages, such as email messages, facsimiles, instant messages and the like (<u>Herbert</u>, col. 5, lines 1-5).

<u>Chatterjee 1</u>, <u>Chatterjee 2</u>, <u>Ludwig</u>, <u>Miller</u> and <u>Herbert</u>, taken alone or in any combination, do not disclose, suggest, or render obvious (1) a management layer to process data using a processing function; (2) the processing function is enabled or disabled by a

configuration user interface; (3) a packetizer to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header identifying the first format as recited in claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21, and 28; and (4) a detector to detect the second format as recited in claims 2, 12, and 22, and (5) a network having an instant messaging infrastructure as recited in claims 4, 14, and 24. There is no motivation to combine Chatterjee 1, Chatterjee 2, Ludwig, Miller and Herbert because none of them addresses the problem of transmitting new data format under existing infrastructure. There is no teaching or suggestion that a packet transmitted to a network having an instant messaging infrastructure is present. Chatterjee 1 and Chatterjee 2, read as a whole, do not suggest the desirability of an instant message infrastructure.

None of Chatterjee 1, Chatterjee 2, Ludwig, and Miller discloses or suggests packetizing the string of data, a management layer, a processing function which may be enabled/disabled using a configuration user interface as discussed above. Herbert merely discloses representing a series of electronic ink data points to reduce the storage capacity (Herbert, col. 5, lines 24-27), not encoding data in a first format into a string of data in the second format.

Furthermore, if the proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. In re Gordon, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). MPEP 2143.01. Here, Chatterjee 1 discloses inserting the encoded digital ink segment in an email message (Chatterjee 1, paragraph [0022]). The encoded message uses ASCII characters. In contrast, Herbert discloses representing the plurality of data points by high-order derivatives (Herbert, col. 9, lines 11-13). Modifying Chatterjee 1 to incorporate the teaching of Herbert implies that the message must be encoded by high-order derivatives which are incompatible with ASCII text message. Therefore, it cannot be inserted in an email message, rendering Chatterjee 1's invention being unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification.

When applying 35 U.S.C. 103, the following tenets of patent law must be adhered to: (A) The claimed invention must be considered as a whole; (B) The references must be considered as a whole and must suggest the desirability and thus the obviousness of making the combination; (C) The references must be viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision afforded by the claimed invention; and (D) Reasonable

expectation of success is the standard with which obviousness is determined. Hodosh v. Block Drug Col, Inc., 786 F.2d 1136, 1143 n.5, 229 USPQ 182, 187 n.5 (Fed. Cir. 1986). "When determining the patentability of a claimed invention which combined two known elements, 'the question is whether there is something in the prior art as a whole suggest the desirability, and thus the obviousness, of making the combination.'" In re Beattie, Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 730 F.2d 1452, 1462, 221 USPQ (BNA) 481, 488 (Fed. Cir. 1984). To defeat patentability based on obviousness, the suggestion to make the new product having the claimed characteristics must come from the prior art, not from the hindsight knowledge of the invention. Interconnect Planning Corp. v. Feil, 744 F.2d 1132, 1143, 227 USPQ (BNA) 543, 551 (Fed. Cir. 1985). To prevent the use of hindsight based on the invention to defeat patentability of the invention, this court requires the Examiner to show a motivation to combine the references that create the case of obviousness. In other words, the Examiner must show reasons that a skilled artisan, confronted with the same problems as the inventor and with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would select the prior elements from the cited prior references for combination in the manner claimed. In re Rouffet, 149 F.3d 1350 (Fed. Cir. 1996), 47 USPQ 2d (BNA) 1453. "To support the conclusion that the claimed invention is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or implicitly suggest the claimed invention or the Examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references." Ex parte Clapp, 227 USPQ 972, 973. (Bd.Pat.App.&Inter. 1985). The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. In re Mills, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Furthermore, although a prior art device "may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be a suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so." In re Mills 916 F.2d at 682, 16 USPQ2d at 1432; In re Fitch, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 USPQ2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Here, none of the cited prior art references discloses, suggests, or renders obvious the above elements. Accordingly, the combination of Chatterjee 1, Chatterjee 2, Ludwig, Miller and Herbert to reject the claims is improper.
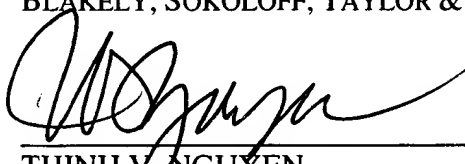
Therefore, Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21, 28 and their respective dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited prior art references.

VIII. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

Applicants respectfully request that the Board enter a decision overturning the Examiner's rejection of all pending claims, and holding that the claims are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art reference.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: October 23, 2006

THINH V. NGUYEN
Reg. No. 42,034

12400 Wilshire Blvd., 7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(714) 557-3800

IX.   CLAIM APPENDIX

The claims of the present application which are involved in this appeal are as follows:

1.   (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a management layer to process data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface.

an encoder coupled to the management layer to encode the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;

a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

a decoder coupled to the packetizer to decode the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.

2.   (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the decoder comprises a detector to detect the second format and a converter to convert the string of data back into the data having the first format.

3.   (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

4.   (original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

5.   (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

6.   (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data having the first format is ink input data.

7.　　(previously presented)　The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the input device is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

8.　　(previously presented)　An apparatus comprising:

a management layer to process data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface.

an encoder coupled to the management layer to encode the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and

a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format.

9.　　(previously presented)　The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, a smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.

10.　　(previously presented)　The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising an interface layer coupled to the packetizer to process the at least one packet into one of an instant messaging, a chat message, and an e-mail message.

11.　　(previously presented)　A method comprising:

processing data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface;

encoding the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;

packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.

12.　　(original)　The method of claim 11 wherein the decoding comprises detecting the second format and converting the string of data into the data having

the first format.

13.   (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

14.   (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

15.   (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

16.   (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the data having the first format is ink input data.

17.   (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

18.   (previously presented) A method comprising:

processing data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface;

encoding the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and

packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format.

19.   (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.

20.   (previously presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising:

processing the at least one packet into one of an instant message, a chat message, and an e-mail message.

21. (previously presented) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer program product having:

computer readable program code for processing data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface;

computer readable program code for encoding the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;

computer readable program code for packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

computer readable program code for decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.

22. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the computer readable program code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for detecting the second format and converting the string of data into the data having the first format.

23. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

24. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

25. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

26. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the data having the first format is an ink-input data.

27.   (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

28.   (previously presented) A computer program product comprising:
    a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer program product having:
        computer readable program code for processing data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface;
        computer readable program code for encoding the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and
        computer readable program code for packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format.

29.   (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, a smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.

30.   (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the computer readable program code further comprising:
    computer readable program code for processing the at least one packet into one of an instant message, a chat message, and an e-mail message.

XI.   EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

XII.   RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None